

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

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1. (currently amended) A method of organizing a plurality of digital images in a predetermined page format utilizing a software program running on a computer, comprising the steps of:

grouping said plurality of images into a plurality of different page layouts;

analyzing each of said different page layouts in accordance with a ~~predetermined criteria~~ respect to the amount of white space in each of said plurality of different page layouts; and

selecting the page layout based on said ~~predetermined criteria~~ the amount of white space determined for each of said plurality of different page layouts.

2. (original) A method according to claim 1 further comprising placing said plurality of images in said selected page layout.

3. Cancelled

4 (currently amended) A method according to claim 3 1 wherein said analyzing said different page layouts comprises scoring each of said different page layouts.

5. (original) A method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of further scaling the images of said selected page layout by different amounts.

6. (currently amended) A method according to claim 3 1 wherein the amount of white space is minimized by using stochastic algorithms.

7. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein said ~~predetermined criteria~~ different page layouts includes placing images ~~in said different page layouts~~ in a non-overlapping pattern.

8. (original) A method according to claim 1 wherein said placing of said plurality of images in said different page layouts comprises scaling all of said images such that they fit within said page format.

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9. (currently amended) A method according to claim 4 wherein said analyzing of said different page layouts comprises a iteration of comparing sequentially two different page layouts and selecting the best page layout until little or no further improvement in scoring is obtained.

10. (original) A method according to claim 9 further comprising the step of scaling individual images of the page layout obtained after said iteration.

11. (original) A method according to claim 9 further comprising the step of rotating said images a predetermined amount.

12. (original) A method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of spatially balancing the spacing between said images.

13. (original) A method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of positioning said images in said selected page layout so as to provide a desired border on said page.

14. (original) A method according to claim 12 wherein said white space is determined vertically between adjacent images in said page layouts.

15 (original) A method according to claim 12 wherein said white space is determined horizontally between adjacent images in said page layouts.

16. (currently amended) A system ~~System~~ for organizing a plurality of digital images in a predetermined format, comprising:

a first computer for composing a plurality of digital ~~image~~ images on a page;

a software program such that when loaded on said computer will causes said computer to group said plurality of images into a plurality of different page layouts;

analyzing each of said different page layouts in accordance with a ~~predetermined criteria~~ respect to the amount of white space in each of said plurality of different page layouts; and

selecting the page layout based on said ~~predetermined criteria~~ the amount of white space determined for each of said plurality of different page layouts..

17. (currently amended) A system according to claim 16, wherein ~~wherein~~ said computer can be accessed remotely over a communication network.

18. (currently amended) A system according to claim 17, wherein said computer is accessed by a second computer.

19. (currently amended) A system according to claim 18, wherein said software program is run on said first computer.

20. (currently amended) A system according to claim 18, wherein said second computer is the personal computer of a customer.

21. (currently amended) A system according to claim 17, wherein said computer is accessed by a retail kiosk.

22. (currently amended) A computer software product for organizing a plurality of digital images in a predetermined format ~~comprising a computer-readable storage medium having a computer program~~ which when loaded into a computer causes the computer to perform the following steps:

grouping said plurality of digital images into a plurality of different page layouts;

analyzing each of said different page layouts in accordance with a ~~predetermined criteria~~ respect to the amount of white space in each of said plurality of different page layouts; and

selecting the page layout based on said ~~predetermined criteria~~ the amount of white space determined for each of said plurality of different page layouts.

B2 23. (currently amended) A method of organizing a plurality of digital images in a predetermined page format utilizing a software program running on a computer, comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of digital images;

selecting a number of said digital images for placement on said predetermined format;

grouping said plurality of images into a plurality of different page layouts;

analyzing each of said different page layouts in accordance with a ~~predetermined criteria~~ respect to the amount of white space in each of said plurality of different page layouts; and

selecting the page layout based on said ~~predetermined criteria~~ the amount of white space determined for each of said plurality of different page layouts.

24. (currently amended) A method of organizing a plurality of digital images in a predetermined page format including an image void area utilizing a software program running on a computer, comprising the steps of:

identifying an area to be void of digital images;

grouping said plurality of images into a plurality of different page layouts including said ~~area-void~~ void area of images;

analyzing each of said different page layouts in accordance with a ~~predetermined criteria~~ respect to the amount of white space in each of said plurality of different page layouts; and

selecting the page layout based on said ~~predetermined criteria~~ the amount of white space determined for each of said plurality of different page layouts

25. (currently amended) A method of organizing a plurality of digital images in a predetermined page format including at least one digital image to be placed in a predetermined image location utilizing the software program running on a computer, comprising the steps of:

identifying said at least one digital image and the location of said at least one predetermined image location;

grouping said plurality of images into a plurality of different page layouts including said at least one image placed in said at least one predetermined image location;

analyzing each of said different page layouts in accordance with a ~~predetermined criteria~~ respect to the amount of white space in each of said plurality of different page layouts; and

selecting the page layout based on said ~~predetermined criteria~~ the amount of white space determined for each of said plurality of different page layouts.

26. (currently amended) A ~~computer software product of method according to claim 25~~ further comprising the step causing said computer to perform the additional step of permitting a user to request another page layout.

27. (new) A computer software product for organizing a plurality of digital images in a predetermined format, said software program when loaded onto a computer causes the computer to perform the steps of:

identifying said at least one digital image and the location of said at least one predetermined image location;

grouping said plurality of images into a plurality of different page layouts including said at least one image placed in said at least one predetermined image location;

analyzing each of said different page layouts in accordance with respect to the amount of white space in each of said plurality of different page layouts; and

selecting the page layout based on said the amount of white space determined for each of said plurality of different page layouts.

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